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SECRET/CONTROL - U. S. OFFICIALS ONLY**Bulgaria****5 April 1949****Development of Bulgarian Rail Network****2**

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1. The Bulgarian Government is making a considerable effort to increase its railway network. Bulgaria, owing to its geographical situation, is meant to be an important transit center and the national railways are already carrying more than fifty percent of the goods entering and leaving the country (the remainder going via the Danube and the Black Sea).
2. The following four lines, are at present under construction:
 - a. The Vratsa-Orhovo line, which forms part of the great northern line will connect almost all the important ports of the Danube with the interior of the country. This line will be completed by the end of 1950. Its total length will be 90 kilometers. It will have 11 stations which will serve 38 localities. This line will be the shortest way between the Danube and Sofia.
 - b. The Lovech-Troyan line, along the valley of the Osan. Length 42 kilometers. The laying down of the rails will be completed during the next few months, and the line will be ready for use at the end of 1948.
 - c. The line Samuilovo-Silistra. Length - 115 kilometers. Scheduled to be completed 1950. Thirty kilometers of rails are to be laid before the end of 1948. This line will contribute to the economic exploitation of the province of Debradja, which is the most fertile region of Bulgaria.
 - d. A section which is of essential importance is the one connecting Makotsevo-Klisura. This section constitutes the last 70 kilometers of the future great sub-Balkan line which will connect Sofia with Varna and Burgas, on the Black Sea. This section will have the longest tunnels in the country, of 5,600 and 3,000 meters.
3. A line of local interest is the one from Leskovets-Klutaritsa, two great centers of forestry and truck-farming. It will be 25 kilometers long.
4. During the course of this year the laying of lines between Dupnitsa-Bobovdol will be completed. This line will serve a region which is rich in high quality tobacco and in coal.

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5. The Government is also taking into consideration the question of improving railway connections with neighboring countries. The construction of the new bridge on the Danube foreseen in the Bulgar-Rumanian treaty of last January will considerably improve inter-Balkan communications as well as those with Poland and Hungary.

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